(c) whether paper visas issued by Gulf-based Airlines to passengers are legally valid documents and approved as authentic documents by the Indian Immigration officials; and

(d) if not, the details of remedial measures taken so far to solve various difficulties faced by our Indian employees working in Gulf countries, who are exploited by agents and employers in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dues from foreign countries

713. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are long delays in enabling Indians get their dues from foreign countries;

(b) the number of such pending cases with the Central Government which are over a year old, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for such delays;

(d) whether requests for settlement of cases of dues are promptly acknowledged; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to put the machinery in motion to review all pending cases and expedite their solution?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) Government of India does not monitor the receipt by Indians of their dues from foreign countries.

Money from migrants

†714. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the India get huge amount of money from migrants;

(b) whether the user of these sums is proving to be useful;

(c) whether any Government department maintain the account of the expenditure incurred on above item; and

(d) the percentage of the amount that is spent on the welfare of poor and backward people?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The remittances from Overseas Indians for the year 2007 was estimated at US $27 billion. These are in the nature of private funds transferred by individuals for various purposes including to meet consumption expenditure of their families back home. The data in this respect is maintained by the Reserve Bank of India.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.